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On-going Berry-crop Production Research

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On-going Berry-crop Production Research

Abstract

Includes:

Cultivar Evaluation of Three New Primocane-fruited Blackberry Selections in Iowa

Cultivar Evaluation of Six New Junebearing Strawberry Selections in Iowa

Keywords

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Cultivar Evaluation of Three New Primocane-fruiting Blackberry Selections in Iowa

Introduction

Winter hardiness is a major concern of Iowa growers because cold temperatures damage floricanes of blackberry plants. The introduction of primocane-fruiting blackberries helps to alleviate the risk of low temperature injury to the floricanes and extends the blackberry fruiting season into the fall. The objective of this study was to evaluate the fruiting potential of three primocane-fruiting blackberry selections that were bred at the University of Arkansas by John Clark and were grown outdoors in Iowa.

Materials and Methods

Three cultivars were established at the Iowa State University Horticulture Research Station in the spring of 2007 from tissue culture plants. The three cultivars were named APF- 41, 45, and 46. Plants were established three feet apart within rows. Four replications of two plants were established in a randomized complete block design. Primocane shoots were tipped when they reached one meter in height.

Results and Discussion

Total fruit weight per plot (two plants, 10 ft in length) of the three cultivars for the season was APF 46: 625 grams; APF 45: 237 grams; and APF 41: 90 grams. Average berry weight of the three cultivars was APF 41: 6 grams;

APF 45: 5 grams; and APF 46: 3.5 grams. Cultivar evaluations will be continued in 2010.

Cultivar Evaluation of Six New Junebearing Strawberry Selections in Iowa

Introduction

Breeding of Junebearing strawberries has been continued in the Midwest for flavor, earliness, and disease resistance selection. Brian Smith at the University of Wisconsin developed numbered selections of Junebearing strawberry. The objective of the study was to evaluate cultivar development of six new selections of Wisconsin Junebearing strawberry compared with four established cultivars; Annapolis, Cavendish, Honeoye, and Jewel.

Materials and Methods

The ten cultivars were established at the Iowa State University Horticulture Research Station in the spring of 2009. Plants were established two ft apart and six ft between cultivars within rows. Rows were spaced 48 in. apart. Five replications of five plants were established in a randomized complete block design. Data were collected on establishment rate and runner development in fall 2009. Data will be collected on fruit production in spring 2010.

Results and Discussion

There were few differences in the establishment rate and runner development of plants among the ten cultivars. All ten cultivars established full matted rows.